

Application Serial No: 10/589,586
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: August 21, 2007

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IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A thermal printhead comprising:
 - a plurality of heating resistance sections arranged on a substrate side by side in a primary scanning direction;
 - a common wiring portion at least part of which extends in the primary scanning direction while being spaced from the heating resistance sections in a secondary scanning direction; ~~and~~
 - a plurality of first lead wiring portions each including a first end connected to the common wiring portion and a second end connected to a respective one of the heating resistance sections; and
 - a plurality of second lead wiring portions extending from the heating resistance sections toward the common wiring portion for connecting the heating resistance sections to the common wiring portion and to a drive IC for controlling energization;
 - wherein the common wiring portion is segmented into a plurality of blocks arranged side by side in the primary scanning direction, and voltage is applied to opposite ends of each of the blocks in the primary scanning direction; ~~and~~
 - wherein the plurality of heating resistance sections are segmented into a plurality of other blocks corresponding to the blocks of the common wiring portion, and, in each of said other blocks, resistance of the heating resistance sections reduces as proceeding from opposite ends toward a center of the block in the primary scanning direction; and
 - wherein the first ends of those first lead wiring portions connected to each block of the common wiring portion are spaced from each other by a smaller distance than a spacing between the second ends of those first lead wiring portions connected to each block of heating resistance sections.

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2. (Original) The thermal printhead according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of first lead wiring portions are generally equal to each other in resistance, and the plurality of second lead wiring portions are generally equal to each other in resistance.
3. (Original) The thermal printhead according to claim 2, wherein the first lead wiring portions are unequal in length, and the second lead wiring portions are unequal in length, wherein a longer one of the lead wiring portions has a larger width at least partially.
4. (Original) The thermal printhead according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of drive ICs are provided, and each of the drive ICs corresponds to a respective one of said other blocks of the heating resistance sections.
5. (Original) The thermal printhead according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of third lead wiring portions each connecting adjacent pair of the heating resistance sections arranged in the primary scanning direction;
wherein the drive IC is arranged closer to the common wiring portion than to the heating resistance sections in the secondary scanning direction; and
wherein the first lead wiring portions and the second lead wiring portions are alternately arranged in the primary scanning direction to be connected to respective pairs of the heating resistance sections and extend from the heating resistance sections toward the common wiring portion.